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IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term, 1974

NO. 74-1519

ST. PETERSBURG BANK AND TRUST COMPANY
Petitioner

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Respondent

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

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REFERENCE TO OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the District Court for the Middle District of Florida (Appendix B) is reported at 362 F.Supp. 674. The per curiam opinion of the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (Appendix A) affirming the opinion of the District Court is not reported.

GROUNDS ON WHICH JURISDICTION IS INVOKED

The opinion of the Court of Appeals affirming the District Court's decision was entered on October 30, 1974. Petitioner's motion for rehearing was denied by the Court of Appeals on March 7, 1975. Jurisdiction to review the judgment of the Court of Appeals is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. Section 1254(1).

THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

1. Where a bank undertakes an extensive program of entertaining community leaders and businessmen in a concerted effort to increase its business, are the costs incurred in that effort deductible for Federal income tax purposes:

2. Where there are substantial numbers of bank officers, directors and employees in attendance at functions sponsored by the bank each of whom is instructed to discuss and solicit bank business and develop goodwill with the guests, is the entertainment directly related to the active conduct of a trade or business within the meaning of section 274 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended: and

3. Where discussions held during the entertainment actually serve to increase the bank's business and develop goodwill must other, different business discussions be held before or after the entertainment before the costs will be deductible as being "associated with" the active conduct of a trade or business.

STATUTE INVOLVED

The only statute involved is Section 274(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, (26 U.S.C. §274) which reads, in part, as follows:

Sec. 274. DISALLOWANCE OF CERTAIN ENTERTAINMENT, ETC. EXPENSES

(a) Entertainment, Amusement, or Recreation.-

(1) In General.- No deduction otherwise allowable under this chapter shall be allowed for any item.

(A) Activity.- With respect to an activity which is of a type generally considered to constitute entertainment, amusement, or recreation, unless the taxpayer establishes that the item was directly related to, or, in the case of an item directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion (including business meetings at a convention or otherwise), that such item was associated with, the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business, or

* * *

and such deduction shall in no event exceed the portion of such item directly related to, or, in the case of an item described in subparagraph (a) directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion (including business meetings as a convention or otherwise), the portion of such item associated with the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The case has developed purely as an issue of law. The facts have never been in dispute; the only question is the proper construction of the foregoing provisions of Section 274 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

Petitioner is a relatively new but progressive and fast-growing bank. It undertook an extensive program of entertaining business leaders, wealthy individuals, public officials and other people in positions to control

deposits and to otherwise beneficially affect the bank's business.

Several times each year the bank sponsored formal parties and less formal dove shoots followed by cocktail parties or barbecues. The functions were hosted by the bank's president and chairman of its board of directors. Invitations were issued on bank stationery or with RSVP to the bank's telephone. The invitations were highly prized and the functions were well attended.

Present at the events there were always numerous bank officers, stockholders, directors and employees who endeavored to solicit business for the bank from the guests. Most of the officers and other employees of the bank were not social acquaintances of the bank's president and their only reason for attendance was to promote the bank. The entertainment actually enhanced the goodwill of the bank, contributed to its substantial growth, and constituted a shrewd and fully justifiable expenditure in pursuit of economic success. The expenditures constituted an ordinary and necessary expense of Petitioner's business.

The Internal Revenue Service argued and the District Court held, however, that such business motivated expenditures are not deductible because of the provisions of Section 274(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended. The lower courts found the entertainment not to be "directly related" to the active conduct of a bank's trade or business. Furthermore, while the entertainment was "associated with" the active conduct of the business, it did not directly precede or follow a bona fide business discussion; the entertain-

ment was contemporaneous with the discussions. Consequently deductions were denied for the costs of the parties and dove shoots.

The basis for federal jurisdiction in the District Court was a suit pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1346(a)(1) for the recovery of income taxes paid by Petitioner as a result of a deficiency assessment made by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the tax years 1965 and 1966.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE OF THE WRIT

It is important that the decision of the Court of Appeals below be reviewed by this Court and reversed, for the following reasons:

1. *Matter of First Impression.* The issue in this case has never been decided. The District Court deplored the lack of judicial authority with respect to a statute enacted in 1962. **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL** considered the decision below important enough to be headlined on its front page. The lack of judicial guidelines in this bread and butter area of everyday concern cries out for this Court's attention — the precedent established by this case will affect significant business practices throughout the country.

2. *Broad Implications.* Based strictly on the construction of the statute, this case has implications far beyond its particular fact situation. The lower courts' decisions mean that no taxpayer may claim a deduction for entertaining customers at functions such as an open house announcing a new office; no deduction may be claimed for such traditional expenses as entertaining customers at Christmas time; no trust company may

deduct the costs of entertaining estate practitioners; no artist can deduct the costs of a party announcing a new show; nor an architect the cost of celebrating the opening of a new project. Any business aggressively seeking profits by virtue of its friendly, personal service, such as this bank did, will be at a competitive disadvantage because it cannot deduct the costs of its efforts .

Unbelievably, the lower courts have disallowed deductions for entertainment of that nature regardless of the business results derived from the blatantly commercial entertainment. While each of these functions may have a definite and demonstrable effect on the taxpayer's business — as the District Court found it did in the instant case — the District Court's opinion, affirmed by the Court of Appeals, held as a matter of law that Section 274(a) denies any deduction for this type of expenditure.

3. *Tax Jungle.* The District Court seems to have concluded that Section 274, like the giraffe, is an unlikely animal put together by a committee. It wrestled with the statute, its attendant committee reports and the Commissioner's regulations, but got lost in the jungle. It lost sight of the realities of the situations the statute was designed to affect and the practicalities of the business world.

4. *Disasterous Results.* The lower courts have ignored the legislative history surrounding the enactment of the statute. Disregarding Congress' express desire not to curtail expenditures for business entertainment because of the effect such action would have on com-

mercial businesses and the entertainment industry, the courts below have imposed severe and unwarranted limitations on deductions for those expenses.

In a time of recession when Congress and industry are doing all in their power to promote business, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has seen fit to raise new road blocks to business expansion. Expenses for large scale business promotions may not be deducted. The costs of entertainment are deductible only if incurred in the intimacy of small groups.

By definition, the courts say, entertainment for the purpose of stimulating business is not directly related to the active conduct of a business. This, say the courts, is true regardless of the economic success derived from the entertainment and without the necessity of examining the circumstances or surroundings of the parties. If the result is the production of goodwill rather than a signed contract, the lower courts hold the entertainment cannot be directly related to the conduct of a business.

The entertainment may be associated with a trade or business, but is deductible only if it immediately precedes or follows serious business negotiations. A negotiating session must be held with each guest within hours of the entertainment. Of necessity, the number of people who can be entertained under such circumstances is quite small.

Large Christmas parties, open houses at which specific negotiations are not held, receptions and other similar business practices no longer result in tax deductible expenditures.

5. *Shocking*. The business expenses so blithely found not to be deductible by the lower courts are commonly incurred in business. That they are not deductible comes as quite a surprise to the business community and the shock is compounded with the knowledge that the decision was made as a matter of law, completely divorced from an analysis of the facts. Indeed, the facts in this case, as determined by the District Court, are that the entertainment was business motivated, shrewdly designed to promote business and effective in increasing the bank's revenues.

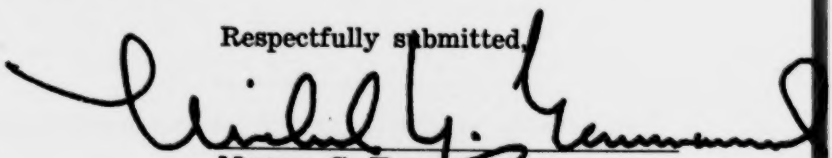
6. *Wide Ramifications*. The money expended by this taxpayer is but a miniscule part of the amount spent by all businesses in similar endeavors. Should the lower courts' opinions be uniformly applied to all taxpayers, it would cut to a trickle the millions of dollars now spent by businesses in developing goodwill. The damage to the commercial and entertainment industries sought to be avoided by Congress is sure to result.

This court must act to prevent the further damage to the economy foretold by the lower courts' opinions.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons set forth above, Petitioner's petition should be granted and the requested writ of certiorari issued.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

NO. 73-3762

ST. PETERSBURG BANK & TRUST COMPANY,
Plaintiff-Appellant,

vs:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Defendant-Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

(October 30, 1974)

Before WISDOM and BELL, Circuit Judges, and BREWSTER, District Judge.

PER CURIAM:

AFFIRMED. See Local Rule 21.[1] We adopt the opinion of the district court as the opinion of this Court.

---

[1] See N.L.R.B. v. Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, 5 Cir. 1970, 430 F.2d 966.

cata. Chicot County Dist. v. Bank, 308 U.S. 371, 60 S.Ct. 317, 84 L.Ed. 329 [1940]. In that opinion, the Court held that the aggrieved party had the opportunity to raise the constitutional question on appeal of the first decision and that collateral attack should be barred by the doctrine. This Court will make a similar finding. Michael Baldwin could have objected to the constitutionality of the award of attorney's fees either to the divorce court or in an appeal to the State Supreme Court of the decree of divorce. He is barred from raising the question by the doctrine of res judicata in the dischargeability of debt proceedings by the Referee. The order of the Referee denying discharge will therefore be affirmed and the petition for review will be dismissed.[1]

ST. PETERSBURG BANK & TRUST COMPANY, Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES of America, Defendant.

Civ. No. 71-425.

United States District Court, M. D. Florida. Tampa Division. Aug. 27, 1973.

Action to recover income taxes paid. The District Court, Hodges, J., held that expenses incurred in connection with dinner parties and dove shoots conducted at home and ranch of controlling shareholder, president and chairman of board of directors of bank were not deductible in computing bank's income tax.

Order accordingly.

1. Internal Revenue ⇐555

Statute relating to disallowance of certain entertainment expenses created general class of entertainment expenses which must be directly related to active conduct of taxpayer's trade or business and second class which must be associated with taxpayer's business and be incurred directly preceding or following substantial and bona fide business discussion. 26 U.S.C.A. (I.R.C.1954) § 274.

2. Internal Revenue ⇐555

Expenses incurred for dinner parties and dove shoots held at home and ranch of controlling stockholder, president and chairman of board of directors of bank were not "directly related" to business of bank and were not deductible in computing bank's income tax even though they contributed to bank's success. 26 U.S.C.A. (I.R.C.1954) §§ 162, 274.

See publication Words and Phrases for other judicial constructions and definitions.

3. Internal Revenue ⇐555

Income tax deduction for expenses incurred in conducting affairs which would normally be regarded as essentially social or entertaining in nature is permitted only if they are directly related to taxpayer's business or are in conjunction with meetings or conferences during which substantial and bona fide business matters are discussed.

4. Internal Revenue ⇐555

Expenses incurred in connection with dinner parties and dove shoots conducted at home and ranch of controlling shareholder, president and chairman of board of directors of bank were not "associated with" meetings or conferences during which substantial and bona fide business matters were discussed and were not deductible in computing bank's income tax even though parties contributed to bank's success and on some occasions there was discussion of specific bank affairs between bank employees

1. Other grounds for discharge of the claim were submitted to the Referee. Michael Baldwin has sought the review of this Court only as to the ruling on the constitutional question.

and persons attending affairs. 26 U.S.C.A. (I.R.C.1954) §§ 162, 274.

See publication Words and Phrases for other judicial constructions and definitions.

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Scott P. Crampton, Asst. Atty. Gen., Jerome Fink, Daniel C. Perri, Attys., Dept. of Justice, Washington, D. C., for defendant.

OPINION

HODGES, District Judge.

St. Petersburg Bank & Trust Company (the Bank) instituted this suit pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A. § 1346(a)(1) for the recovery of income taxes paid by it as a result of a deficiency assessment made by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the tax years 1965 and 1966. The issue is the propriety of certain deductions made by the Bank for entertainment expenses during those years. The governing provisions of the Code are Sections 162 and 274, Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended (26 U.S.C.A. §§ 162 and 274).

The Bank was organized in 1955 by Mr. Hubert Rutland and others. Mr. Rutland, a well-known St. Petersburg businessman, is the controlling shareholder, president and chairman of the board of directors. From its inception the Bank has aggressively and successfully sought out business from large depositors, borrowers and settlors of trusts. Taking the view that competition in the banking industry is largely confined to the area of personal services and relationships, the Bank has consistently endeavored to project the image of a local institution offering friendly, efficient and personal services to local businessmen, governmental entities and residents. Its implementation of that concept has principally focused upon and emphasized the management position of Hubert Rutland, and virtually all of the Bank's public advertising has sought to exploit both his professional and social reputation in the community.

The expenses in dispute were incurred as a result of certain cocktail and dinner parties held at the Rutland home in St. Petersburg, and certain dove shoots and barbecues held at the Rutland ranch in Manatee County, approximately 30 miles to the South and East of St. Petersburg. In 1965 there were two such parties or receptions in the Rutland home, and three dove shoots at the Rutland ranch. In 1966 there was one reception in the home, a second party at another location and four dove shoots at the ranch. Attendance at these functions was by invitation only, and the written invitations were issued in the names of Mr. and Mrs. Rutland. The number of guests varied from approximately 50 persons to as many as 250, and there was no outward indication to those in attendance that any of the affairs were sponsored by the Bank. The costs, however, were paid by the Bank with the apparent approbation of its board of directors. The guest lists were compiled so as to include customers or potential customers of the Bank, business leaders, public officials, persons of substantial wealth and others in a position to control large deposits or otherwise direct beneficial business to the Bank. In addition, a number of the Bank's officers and key employees were invited on each occasion. Most of these persons clearly understood that they were asked to attend only because they were Bank employees, and many were specifically instructed to circulate among the guests, pass out their business cards, and generally tout the services of the Bank while nurturing a personal rapport with established or potential customers. On several occasions the employees took advantage of the opportunity to discuss specific transactions, either pending or contemplated.

The evidence generally supports the conclusion that these parties enhanced the good will of the Bank, contributed to its substantial growth, and constituted a

shrewd and fully justifiable expenditure by the Bank or its board of directors in pursuit of economic success. As a result —and the Government at least tacitly conceded the point—such expenses would appear to be deductible as "ordinary and necessary" business expenses within the purview of Section 162 of the Code (26 U.S.C.A. § 162) as interpreted and applied through 1962. See First National Bank of Omaha v. United States, 276 F.Supp. 905 (D.Neb.1967). The ultimate issue in the case, therefore, is the proper construction to be made of Section 274 (26 U.S.C.A. § 274), and a determination as to whether the subject expenses meet the admittedly more stringent requirements of that provision.

Section 274 was added to the Code in 1962,[1] and its genesis is best described in the Senate Committee Report: [2]

> "The Treasury brought to the attention of Congress that widespread abuses have developed through the use of the expense account. In his tax message to the Congress last year, the President stated his conviction that entertainment and related expenses, even though having a connection with the needs of business, confer substantial tax-free personal benefits on the recipients, and that in many instances deductions are obtained by disguising personal expenses as business expenses. He recommended that the cost of such business entertainment and the maintenance of entertainment facilities be disallowed in full as a tax deduction and that restrictions be imposed on the deductibility of business gifts and travel expenses.
>
> "Much of the abuse described by the President can be traced to the broad judicial and administrative interpretation given to the term 'ordinary and necessary' which has resulted in many entertainment expenses being allowed as deductions where their connection with a trade or business is quite remote. Under present laws, where a business purpose, however slight, exists, then the entertainment expenses generally are fully deductible if they are 'ordinary and necessary' business expenses.
>
> "After careful consideration of the proposal, your committee has concluded that deductions for entertainment and traveling expenses and business gifts should be restricted to prevent abuses."

Congress thus resolved to make the law more restrictive in the area of business entertainment deductions, not by amendment of Section 162 governing business expenses in general, but by the passage of a new and separate provision dealing solely with items of entertainment. As it ultimately evolved and became enacted, Section 274(a)(1)(A) provides as follows:

> "§ 274. Disallowance of certain entertainment, etc., expenses
>
> (a) Entertainment, amusement, or recreation.—
>
> (1) In general.—No deduction otherwise allowable under this chapter shall be allowed for any item—
>
> (A) Activity.—With respect to an activity which is of a type generally considered to constitute entertainment, amusement, or recreation, unless the taxpayer establishes that the item was directly related to, or, in the case of an item directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion (including business meetings at a convention or otherwise), that such item was associated with, the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business, ..."

[1] Careful reading of this provision discloses a rather curious dichotomy of

1. Revenue Act of 1962, Public Law 87-834, § 4; 76 Stat. 960.

2. S.Rep. No. 1881, 87th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1962); U.S.Code, Congressional and Administrative News, pp. 3304, 3327 (1962).

standards—"directly related" and "associated with." The statute clearly creates two classes of entertainment expenses which are measured by separate tests in determining deductibility. One class is general, the other is specific. Entertainment expense in general must be "directly related" to "the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business." On the other hand, in the case of an expense incurred for entertainment "directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion," it need only be "associated with" the taxpayer's business in order to qualify for deduction.

The Bank contends, first, that on the peculiar facts of this case the expenses involved easily qualify under the "directly related" test and the Treasury Regulations expanding upon that standard. Secondly, and alternatively, it contends that even if the disputed expenses were not "directly related" to its business, they surely qualify under the less exacting "associated with" test. Inherent in the latter assertion is the added contention that the qualifying language —"preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion"— does not mean that the business discussions and the entertainment cannot be in process simultaneously. To evaluate and resolve these issues it is necessary to examine the legislative history of the statute in depth and, to a lesser degree, the Treasury Regulations promulgated since its enactment.[3]

I LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

As already noted, the purpose of Congress was to tighten the existing law and prevent abuses that had developed under Section 162. The President's recommendation was hard and tough (see Senate Report, *supra*), and the House acted accordingly. Its bill would have prevented any deduction for the cost of business entertainment or the maintenance of entertainment facilities in the absence of a clear showing that such expense was "directly related" to the "active conduct" of business. (H.Rep.No. 1447, 87th Cong. 2d Sess., 1962-3 Cum. Bull. 405, 423-430). The Senate was more reticent. It described its concern and its attenuating amendments of the House bill as follows:[4]

> "The committee agrees that this abuse of the tax law should not be condoned, but on the other hand it does not believe that complete disallowance as recommended by the President is the proper solution to the problem. Rather, your committee is convinced that expenses incurred for valid business purposes should not be discouraged since such expenses serve to increase business income, which in turn produces additional tax revenues for the Treasury."
>
> * * * * * *
>
> "The House bill provides rules which in general would: (1) disallow a deduction with respect to entertainment activities, except to the extent that the expense is directly related to the active conduct of a trade or business; (2) disallow a deduction with respect to entertainment facilities, unless the facility is used primarily for the furtherance of the taxpayer's trade or business and the expense is directly related to the active conduct of the trade or business; . . ."
>
> * * * * * *
>
> "Your committee's bill to a considerable degree retains the basic struc-

3. This case is a clear example of the phenomenon that so frequently occurs in the study and practice of law, namely the surprising paucity of decisional authority dealing with a seemingly basic or fundamental question. Although the statute is now over 10 years old, only one recent decision has approached the issue at hand, and it is easily distinguishable. See Hippodrome Oldsmobile, Inc. v. United States, 474 F.2d 959 (6th Cir. 1973).

4. S.Rep. No. 1881, 87th Cong. 2d Sess. (1962); U.S.Code, Congressional and Administrative News, pp. 3304, 3327-3329 (1962).

ture of the House bill. However, the effect of the principal provision (the disallowing of a deduction for certain entertainment expenses) has been modified to permit the deduction of expenses for goodwill where a close association is established between the expense and the active conduct of a trade or business."

* * * * * *

"To eliminate the harshness resulting from the House report, amendment of the language of the House bill is necessary. Despite amendment of the House bill your committee has made certain that entertainment expense abuses are eliminated. By your committee's amendment an alternative rule is added to the House bill under which expenses for entertainment, amusement, or recreation (with respect to both activities and facilities) also will be deductible to the extent that such expenses are associated with the active conduct of a trade or business. This new language will permit deduction of expenses for entertainment, amusement, or recreation incurred for the creation or maintenance of business goodwill without regard to whether a particular exception applies. However, this new language will apply only if the taxpayer demonstrates a clear business purpose and shows a reasonable expectation of deriving some income or other benefit to his business as a result of the expenditure. If he meets this test, the expenditure will be considered to be associated with the active conduct of his trade or business; otherwise, the expense will be disallowed under your committee's amendment."

In essence, the Senate disapproved the harshness of the House bill to the extent that no deduction would be allowed for general goodwill entertainment, and it opted for the middle ground between Section 162 and the House version of Section 274 so as to permit deduction of such expenses so long as they were "associated with" the business and the taxpayer could show "a reasonable expectation of deriving some income" as a result of the expenditure. This was the posture of the bill, therefore, as it proceeded to consideration by the conference committee.

The report of the conference committee, and the language of the statute as ultimately enacted, make it abundantly clear that the view of the House prevailed, with one narrow exception. The report states: [5]

"Senate amendments Nos. 29, 30 and 31 inserted the words 'or associated with' after the words 'directly related to' each place they appeared in the new section 274(a)(1) as passed by the House.

"Under the conference agreement the House recedes on Senate amendment No. 29 *with an amendment* providing that deductions otherwise allowable under chapter 1 of the code shall not be allowed for any item with respect to an entertainment type activity 'unless the taxpayer establishes that the item was directly related to, or, *in the case of an item directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion (including business meetings at a convention or otherwise)*, that such item was associated with,' the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business. Under the conference agreement, the Senate recedes on amendment No. 30, and the House recedes on amendment No. 31 *with an amendment* conforming to the action on amendment No. 29.

"The rule of the House bill as described in the report of the Committee on Ways and Means is more strict than the 'or associated with' rule of the Senate amendment. The rule of the House bill would not allow deduction of expenditures for entertainment occurring under circumstances where

5. H.Conf.Rep. No. 2508, 87th Cong., 2d Sess. (1962); U.S.Code, Congressional and Administrative News, pp. 3732, 3735-3736 (1962).

there is little or no possibility of conducting business affairs or carrying on negotiations or discussions relating thereto, such as where the group of persons entertained is large or the distractions substantial.

"It is the understanding of the conferees, both on the part of the House and the Senate, that the alternative Senate 'or associated with' test as described in the report of the Finance Committee would apply to certain entertaining primarily to encourage goodwill where the evidence of business connection is clear, whether or not business is actually transacted or discussed *during the entertainment*. The conference agreement would permit a deduction for the cost of an entertainment item, even though the item is not directly related to the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business, if the item is associated with it, *so long as the entertainment activity directly precedes or follows a substantial and bona fide business discussion*. The conditions under which an item is 'associated with' the active conduct of a trade or business are contained in the report of the Committee on Finance. The deductibility of other items of entertainment expense, as well as items with respect to facilities, would be governed by the rule of the House bill.

"Section 274(a) as agreed to by the conferees will allow as a deduction the cost of entertaining connected with what are primarily business meetings. For example, if the taxpayer conducts substantial negotiations with a group of business associates and that evening entertains the group and their wives at a restaurant, theater, concert, or sporting event, such entertainment expenses, if associated with the active conduct of the taxpayer's business, will be deductible even though the purpose of the entertainment is merely to promote goodwill in such business. Moreover, if a group of business associates with whom the taxpayer is conducting business meetings comes from out of town to the taxpayer's place of business to hold substantial business discussions, the entertainment of such business guests by the taxpayer the evening prior to the business discussions will be regarded as directly preceding the business discussions.

"Similarly, if in between, or in the evening after, business meetings at a convention, the taxpayer entertains his business associates or prospective customers attending such meetings (and their wives), such entertainment will be considered as directly preceding or following a business discussion." (Emphasis supplied)

In summary, and as the enacted statute shows, the Senate receded altogether with respect to Section 274(a)(1)(B), dealing with entertainment facilities, and the "directly related" test is the sole standard to be applied as to those items. Hippodrome Oldsmobile, Inc. v. United States, 474 F.2d 959 (6th Cir. 1973). The Senate's less stringent "associated with" test was retained in Section 274(a)(1)(A)—the provision at issue—but only after a compromise amendment which qualified and limited that test to those expense items "directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion (including business meetings at a convention or otherwise)."

II THE DIRECTLY RELATED TEST

The Treasury Regulations promulgated under Section 274 generally restate the sense of Congress as revealed by the committee reports. Thus, among other criteria not pertinent to this case, Section 1.274-2(c)(3)(i)-(iv) of the regulations (26 C.F.R.) establishes four separate requirements, all of which must be met for an entertainment item to qualify as a "directly related" expense. Subsection (i) set forth the first of these requirements as follows:

"(i) At the time the taxpayer made the entertainment expenditure (or committed himself to make the ex-

penditure), the taxpayer had more than a general expectation of deriving some income or other specific trade or business benefit (*other than the goodwill of the person or persons entertained*) at some indefinite future time from the making of the expenditure. A taxpayer, however, shall not be required to show that income or other business benefit actually resulted from each and every expenditure for which a deduction is claimed." (Emphasis supplied)

In addition, Section 1.274-2(c)(7) of the same regulation (26 C.F.R.) provides:

"(7) *Expenditures generally considered not directly related.* Expenditures for entertainment, even if connected with the taxpayer's trade or business, will generally be considered not directly related to the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business, if the entertainment occurred under circumstances where there was little or no possibility of engaging in the active conduct of trade or business. The following circumstances will generally be considered circumstances where there was little or no possibility of engaging in the active conduct of a trade or business:

(i) The taxpayer was not present;

(ii) The distractions were substantial, such as

(a) A meeting or discussion at night clubs, theatres, and sporting events, or *during essentially social gatherings such as cocktail parties,* . . ." (Emphasis supplied)

[2] Thus, insofar as the "directly related" test is concerned, it seems manifest that the entertainment involved in this case fails to qualify. There can be no doubt that the parties hosted by the Rutlands were motivated primarily by business considerations and that the Bank was the ultimate beneficiary of their social efforts. Yet it is equally clear that the benefit enjoyed by the Bank was of the goodwill variety derived from a purely social setting and, as such, was precisely the type of expense deduction that Congress intended to eliminate by way of the "directly related" test.

III THE ASSOCIATED WITH TEST

The above conclusions do not necessarily disqualify the expenses, however, under the "associated with" test. That test, as intended by the Senate, is sufficiently relaxed to accommodate and allow deduction of certain goodwill items. The regulations say (26 C.F.R. § 1.274-2(d)(2)):

"(2) *Associated entertainment defined.* Generally, any expenditure for entertainment, if it is otherwise allowable under chapter 1 of the Code, shall be considered associated with the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business if the taxpayer establishes that he had a clear business purpose in making the expenditure, such as to obtain new business or to encourage the continuation of an existing business relationship."

The "associated with" test is limited, nevertheless, by the express qualification, imposed in conference, that the expense must relate to an item "directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion (including business meetings at a convention or otherwise)." Again echoing the views reflected in the conference committee report, *supra*, the regulations provide (26 C.F.R. § 1.274-2(d)(3)(ii)):

"(ii) *Directly preceding or following.* Entertainment which occurs on the same day as a substantial and bona fide business discussion (as defined in subdivision (i) of this subparagraph) will be considered to directly precede or follow such discussion. If the entertainment and the business discussion do not occur on the same day, the facts and circumstances of each case are to be considered, including the place, date and duration of the business discussion, whether the taxpayer or his business

associates are from out of town, and, if so, the date of arrival and departure, and the reasons the entertainment did not take place on the day of the business discussion. For example, if a group of business associates comes from out of town to the taxpayer's place of business to hold a substantial business discussion, the entertainment of such business guests and their wives on the evening prior to, or on the evening of the day following, the business discussion would generally be regarded as directly preceding or following such discussion."

[3] Since the "associated with" test is, in effect, an exception and not a general rule, the applicability of the test to specific facts is best determined when it is examined in juxtaposition with the "directly related" test as the basic standard. Concerning cocktail or dinner parties and other affairs such as those involved in this case, all of which would normally be regarded as essentially social or entertaining in nature, deduction of the expense is generally permitted only if the stringent requirements of the "directly related" standard are met. The mere purpose of fostering good will is insufficient to show a direct relationship to the business. On the other hand, when such affairs are sponsored in conjunction with meetings or conferences during which substantial and bona fide business matters are discussed, the cost of entertaining the participants as a good will expense item will be deductible as "associated with" the business. Practical application of the test is best typified by the illustrative examples given in the Conference Report and the Regulations, i. e., the familiar situations in which business conferences are conducted by day and out of town participants are entertained by night.

[4] Viewed in this way, the conclusion is inescapable that the Bank's disputed entertainment expenses also fail to satisfy the requirements of the "associated with" test. It is not even suggested by the Bank that the social gatherings were in any sense an adjunct of formal business meetings. Rather, the Bank insists that the "associated with" test should not be narrowly confined to those precise situations in which the entertainment literally "precedes" or "follows" substantial business discussions, and that expenses may still qualify for deduction under that less demanding test even though the business discussions are conducted during the course of a combined social/business function. And, to be sure, there is at least one passage in the Conference Report (quoted *supra*) which lends support to this contention.

On the facts of this case, however, that construction and application would tolerate if not invite a head-on collision between the two tests, and would result in a statutory paradox. If the "associated with" test was intended to apply to cocktail and dinner parties, or dove shoots and barbecues merely because some business is discussed and good will is promoted, to what type of entertainment expense would the more demanding "directly related" test ever be applicable? Further exploration of that question here would require an indulgence in conjecture concerning potential factual situations not yet presented and unnecessary to decide. The future may well yield a case in which the "associated with" standard might be applied in the manner suggested by the Bank. Suffice it to say, however, that to bring the present expenses within the scope of that test would necessitate an unwarranted expansion of its limited area at the expense of the primary "directly related" test and the field it occupies.

The Clerk is directed to enter judgment in favor of the Defendant, dismissing the complaint with costs to be assessed according to law.

SUPREME COURT, U. S.
FILED
JUN 30 1975
MICHAEL

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term, 1974

NO. 74-1519

ST. PETERSBURG BANK AND TRUST COMPANY
Petitioner

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Respondent

SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIX TO PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

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and
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UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
Fifth Circuit
Office of the Clerk

March 7, 1975

TO ALL COUNSEL OF RECORD
Re: 73-3762 ST. PETERSBURG BANK & TRUST COMPANY V. U.S.A.

Dear Counsel:

This is to advise that an order has this day been entered denying the petition( ) for rehearing, and no member of the panel nor Judge in regular active service on the Court having requested that the Court be polled on rehearing en banc (Rule 35, Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure; Local Fifth Circuit Rule 12) the petition( ) for rehearing en banc has also been denied.

See Rule 41, Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure for issuance and stay of the mandate.

Very truly yours,
EDWARD W. WADSWORTH
CLERK

Signed Anne G. Parent

By Anne G. Parent
Deputy Clerk

cc: Messrs. Michael G. Emmanuel
Michael D. Annis
Joseph D. Edwards
Messrs. Scott P. Crampton
Donald B. Craven
Daniel C. Perri
Meyer Rothwacks
Messrs. John L. Briggs
Oscar Blasingame
Messrs. Alfred Lombardi
Michael L. Paup

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

No. 71-425-Civ-T-H

ST. PETERSBURG BANK & TRUST COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

OPINION

St. Petersburg Bank & Trust Company (the Bank) instituted this suit pursuant to 28 USCA §1346(a)(1) for the recovery of income taxes paid by it as a result of a deficiency assessment made by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the tax years 1965 and 1966. The issue is the propriety of certain deductions made by the Bank for entertainment expenses during those years. The governing provisions of the Code are Sections 162 and 274, Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended (26 USCA §§ 162 and 274).

The Bank was organized in 1955 by Mr. Hubert Rutland and others. Mr. Rutland, a well-known St. Petersburg businessman, is the controlling shareholder, president and chairman of the board of directors. From its inception the Bank has aggressively and successfully sought out business from large depositors, borrowers and settlors of trusts. Taking the view that competition in the banking industry is largely confined to the area of personal services and relationships, the Bank has consistently endeavored to project the image of a local institution offering friendly, efficient and personal services to local businessmen, governmental entities and residents. Its implementation of that concept has principally focused upon and emphasized the management position of Hubert Rutland, and virtually all of the Bank's public advertising has sought to exploit both his professional and social reputation in the community.

The expenses in dispute were incurred as a result of certain cocktail and dinner parties held at the Rutland home in St. Petersburg, and certain dove shoots and barbecues held at the Rutland ranch in Manatee County, approximately 30 miles to the South and East of St. Petersburg. In 1965 there were two such parties or receptions in the Rutland home, and three dove shoots at the Rutland ranch. In 1966 there was one reception in the home, a second party at another location and four dove shoots at the ranch. Attendance at these functions was by invitation only, and the written invitations were issued in the names of Mr. and Mrs. Rutland. The number of guests varied from approximately 50 persons to as many as 250, and there was no outward indication to those in attendance that any of the affairs were sponsored by the Bank. The costs, however, were paid by the Bank with the apparent approbation of its board of directors. The guest lists were compiled so as to include customers or potential customers of the Bank, business leaders, public officials, persons of substantial wealth and others in a position to control large deposits or otherwise direct beneficial business to the Bank. In addition, a number of the Bank's officers and key employees were invited on each occasion. Most of these persons clearly understood that they were asked to attend only because they were Bank employees, and many were specifically instructed to circulate among the guests, pass out their business cards, and generally tout the services of the Bank while nurturing a personal rapport with established or potential customers. On several occasions the employees took advantage of the opportunity to discuss specific transactions, either pending or contemplated.

The evidence generally supports the conclusion that these parties enhanced the good will of the Bank, contributed to its substantial growth, and constituted a shrewd and fully justifiable expenditure by the Bank or its board of directors in pursuit of economic success. As a result — and the Government at least tacitly conceded the point — such expenses would appear to be deductible as "ordinary and necessary" business expenses within the purview of Section 162 of the Code (26 USCA §162) as interpreted and applied through 1962. See *First National Bank of Omaha* vs. *United States*, 276 F.Supp. 905 (D. Neb. 1967). The ultimate issue in the case, therefore, is the proper construction to be made of Section 274 (26 USCA §274), and a determination as to whether the subject expenses meet the admittedly more stringent requirements of that provision.

Section 274 was added to the Code in 1962,* and its genesis is best described in the Senate Committee Report:**

> "The Treasury brought to the attention of Congress that widespread abuses have developed through the use of the expense account. In his tax message to the Congress last year, the President stated his conviction that entertainment and related expenses, even though having a connection with the needs of business, confer substantial tax-free personal benefits on the recipients, and that in many instances deductions are obtained by disguising personal expenses as business expenses. He recommended that the cost of such business entertainment and the maintenance of entertainment facilities be disallowed in full as a tax deduction and that restrictions be imposed on the deductibility of business gifts and travel expenses.
>
> "Much of the abuse described by the President can be traced to the broad judicial and administrative interpretation given to the term 'ordinary and necessary' which has resulted in many entertainment expenses being allowed as deductions where their connection with a trade or business is quite remote. Under present laws, where a business purpose, however slight, exists, then the entertainment expenses generally are fully deductible if they are 'ordinary and necessary' business expenses.
>
> "After careful consideration of the proposal, your committee has concluded that deductions for entertainment and traveling expenses and business gifts should be restricted to prevent abuses."

Congress thus resolved to make the law more restrictive in the area of business entertainment deductions, not by amendment of Section 162 governing business expenses in general, but by the passage of a new and separate provision dealing solely with items of entertainment. As it ultimately evolved and became enacted, Section 274(a)(1)(A) provides as follows:

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* Revenue Act of 1962, Public Law 87-834, §4; 76 Stat. 960.

** S. Rep. No. 1881, 87th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1962); U.S. Code, Congressional and Administrative News, 3304, 3327 (1962).

"§274. Disallowance of certain entertainment, etc., expenses

(a) Entertainment, amusement, or recreation. — (1) In general.—No deduction otherwise allowable under this chapter shall be allowed for any item —

(A) Activity.—With respect to an activity which is of a type generally considered to constitute entertainment, amusement, or recreation, unless the taxpayer establishes that the item was directly related to, or, in the case of an item directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion (including business meetings at a convention or otherwise), that such item was associated with, the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business, . . ."

Careful reading of this provision discloses a rather curious dichotomy of standards — "directly related" and "associated with." The statute clearly creates two classes of entertainment expenses which are measured by separate tests in determining deductibility. One class is general, the other is specific. Entertainment expense in general must be "directly related" to "the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business." On the other hand, in the case of an expense incurred for entertainment "directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion," it need only be "associated with" the taxpayer's business in order to qualify for deduction.

The Bank contends, first, that on the peculiar facts of this case the expenses involved easily qualify under the "directly related" test and the Treasury Regulations expanding upon that standard. Secondly, and alternatively, it contends that even if the disputed expenses were not "directly related" to its business, they surely qualify under the less exacting "associated with" test. Inherent in the latter assertion is the added contention that the qualifying language — "preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion" — does not mean that the business discussions and the entertainment cannot be in process simultaneously. To evaluate and resolve these issues it is necessary to examine the legislative history of the statute in

depth and, to a lesser degree, the Treasury Regulations promulgated since its enactment.*

I LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

As already noted, the purpose of Congress was to tighten the existing law and prevent abuses that had developed under Section 162. The President's recommendation was hard and tough (see Senate Report, *supra*), and the House acted accordingly. Its bill would have prevented any deduction for the cost of business entertainment or the maintenance of entertainment facilities in the absence of a clear showing that such expense was "directly related" to the "active conduct" of business. (H.Rep. No. 1447, 87th Cong. 2d Sess., 1962-3 Cum. Bull. 405, 423-430). The Senate was more reticent. It described its concern and its attenuating amendments of the House bill as follows:*

> "The committee agrees that this abuse of the tax law should not be condoned, but on the other hand it does not believe that complete disallowance as recommended by the President is the proper solution to the problem. Rather, your committee is convinced that expenses incurred for valid business purposes should not be discouraged since such expenses serve to increase business income, which in turn produces additional tax revenues for the Treasury."
>
> * * * *
>
> "The House bill provides rules which in general would: (1) disallow a deduction with respect to entertainment activities, except to the extent that the expense is directly related to the active conduct of a trade or business; (2) disallow a deduction with respect to entertainment facilities, unless the facility is used primarily for

---

* This case is a clear example of the phenomenon that so frequently occurs in the study and practice of law, namely the surprising paucity of decisional authority dealing with a seemingly basic or fundamental question. Although the statute is now over 10 years old, only one recent decision has approached the issue at hand, and it is clearly distinguishable. See *Hippodrome Oldsmobile, Inc.* vs. *United States*, 474 F.2d 959 (6th Cir. 1973).

* S. Rep. No. 1881, 87th Cong. 2d Sess. (1962); U.S. Code, Congressional and Administrative News, 3304, 3327-3329 (1962).

the furtherance of the taxpayer's trade of business and the expense is directly related to the active conduct of the trade or business; . . ."

* * * *

"Your committee's bill to a considerable degree retains the basic structure of the House bill. However, the effect of the principal provision (the disallowing of a deduction for certain entertainment expenses) has been modified to permit the deduction of expenses for goodwill where a close association is established between the expense and the active conduct of a trade or business."

* * * *

"To eliminate the harshness resulting from the House report, amendment of the language of the House bill is necessary. Despite amendment of the House bill your committee has made certain that entertainment expense abuses are eliminated. By your committee's amendment an alternative rule is added to the House bill under which expenses for entertainment, amusement, or recreation (with respect to both activities and facilities) also will be deductible to the extent that such expenses are associated with the active conduct of a trade or business. This new language will permit deduction of expenses for entertainment, amusement, or recreation incurred for the creation or maintenance of business goodwill without regard to whether a particular exception applies. However, this new language will apply only if the taxpayer demonstrates a clear business purpose and shows a reasonable expectation of deriving some income or other benefit to his business as a result of the expenditure. If he meets this test, the expenditure will be considered to be associated with the active conduct of his trade or business; otherwise, the expense will be disallowed under your committee's amendment."

In essence, the Senate disapproved the harshness of the House bill to the extent that no deduction would be allowed for general goodwill entertainment, and it opted for the middle ground between Section 162 and the House version of Section 274 so as to permit deduction of such expenses so long as they

were "associated with" the business and the taxpayer could show "a reasonable expectation of deriving some income" as a result of the expenditure. This was the posture of the bill, therefore, as it proceeded to consideration by the conference committee.

The report of the conference committee, and the language of the statute as ultimately enacted, make it abundantly clear that the view of the House prevailed, with one narrow exception. The report states:*

> "Senate amendments Nos. 29, 30 and 31 inserted the words 'or associated with' after the words 'directly related to' each place they appeared in the new section 274(a)(1) as passed by the House.
>
> "Under the conference agreement the House recedes on Senate amendment No. 29 *with an amendment* providing that deductions otherwise allowable under chapter 1 of the code shall not be allowed for any item with respect to an entertainment type activity 'unless the taxpayer establishes that the item was directly related to, or, *in the case of an item directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion (including business meetings at a convention or otherwise)*, that such item was associated with,' the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business. Under the conference agreement, the Senate recedes on amendment No. 30, and the House recedes on amendment No. 31 *with an amendment* conforming to the action on amendment No. 29.
>
> "The rule of the House bill as described in the report of the Committee on Ways and Means is more strict than the 'or associated with' rule of the Senate amendment. The rule of the House bill would not allow deduction of expenditures for entertainment occurring under circumstances where there is little or no possibility of conducting business affairs or carrying on negotiations or discussions relating thereto, such as where the group of persons entertained is large or the distractions substantial.

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* II Conf. Rep. No. 2508, 87th Cong., 2d Sess. (1962); U.S. Code, Congressional and Administrative News, 3732, 3735-3736 (1962).

"It is the understanding of the conferees, both on the part of the House and the Senate, that the alternative Senate 'or associated with' test as described in the report of the Finance Committee would apply to certain entertaining primarily to encourage goodwill where the evidence of business connection is clear, whether or not business is actually transacted or discussed *during the entertainment.* The conference agreement would permit a deduction for the cost of an entertainment item, even though the item is not directly related to the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business, if the item is associated with it, *so long as the entertainment activity directly precedes or follows a substantial and bona fide business discussion. The* conditions under which an item is 'associated with' the active conduct of a trade or business are contained in the report of the Committee on Finance. The deductibility of other items of entertainment expense, as well as items with respect to facilities, would be governed by the rule of the House bill.

"Section 274(a) as agreed to by the conferees will allow as a deduction the cost of entertaining connected with what are primarily business meetings. For example, if the taxpayer conducts substantial negotiations with a group of business associates and that evening entertains the group and their wives at a restaurant, theater, concert, or sporting event, such entertainment expenses, if associated with the active conduct of the taxpayer's business, will be deductible even though the purpose of the entertainment is merely to promote goodwill in such business. Moreover, if a group of business associates with whom the taxpayer is conducting business meetings comes from out of town to the taxpayer's place of business to hold substantial business discussions, the entertainment of such business guests by the taxpayer the evening prior to the business discussions will be regarded as directly preceding the business discussions.

"Similarly, if in between, or in the evening after, business meetings at a convention, the taxpayer entertains his business associates or prospective customers attending such meetings (and their wives), such entertainment will be considered as directly preceding or following a business discussion." (Emphasis supplied)

In summary, and as the enacted statute shows, the Senate receded altogether with respect to Section 274(a)(1)(B), dealing with entertainment facilities, and the "directly related" test is the sole standard to be applied as to those items. *Hippodrome Oldsmobile, Inc.* vs. *United States*, 474 F.2d 959 (6th Cir. 1973). The Senate's less stringent "associated with" test was retained in Section 274(a)(1)(A) — the provision at issue — but only after a compromise amendment which qualified and limited that test to those expense items "directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion (including business meetings at a convention or otherwise)."

II THE DIRECTLY RELATED TEST

The Treasury Regulations promulgated under Section 274 generally restate the sense of Congress as revealed by the committee reports. Thus, among other criteria not pertinent to this case, Section 1.274-2(c)(3)(i)-(iv) of the regulations (26 C.F.R.) establishes four separate requirements, all of which must be met for an entertainment item to qualify as a "directly related" expense. Subsection (i) set forth the first of these requirements as follows:

> (i) At the time the taxpayer made the entertainment expenditure (or committed himself to make the expenditure), the taxpayer had more than a general expectation of deriving some income or other specific trade or business benefit (*other than the goodwill of the person or persons entertained*) at some indefinite future time from the making of the expenditure. A taxpayer, however, shall not be required to show that income or other business benefit actually resulted from each and every expenditure for which a deduction is claimed."
> (Emphasis supplied)

In addition, Section 1.274-2(c)(7) of the same regulation (26 C.F.R.) provides:

> "(7) *Expenditures generally considered not directly related.* Expenditures for entertainment, even if connected with the taxpayer's trade or business, will generally be considered not directly related to the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business, if the entertainment occurred under circumstances where there was little or no possibility

of engaging in the active conduct of trade or business. The following circumstances will *generally* be considered circumstances where there was little or no possibility of engaging in the active conduct of a trade or business:

(i) The taxpayer was not present;
(ii) The distractions were substantial, such as
(a) A meeting or discussion at night clubs, theatres, and sporting events, or *during essentially social gatherings such as cocktail parties, . . .*" (Emphasis supplied)

Thus, insofar as the "directly related" test is concerned, it seems manifest that the entertainment involved in this case fails to qualify. There can be no doubt that the parties hosted by the Rutlands were motivated primarily by business considerations and that the Bank was the ultimate beneficiary of their social efforts. Yet it is equally clear that the benefit enjoyed by the Bank was of the goodwill variety derived from a purely social setting and, as such, was precisely the type of expense deduction that Congress intended to eliminate by way of the "directly related" test.

III THE ASSOCIATED WITH TEST

The above conclusions do not necessarily disqualify the expenses, however, under the "associated with" test. That test, as intended by the Senate, is sufficiently relaxed to accommodate and allow deduction of certain goodwill items. The regulations say (26 C.F.R. §1.274-2(d)(2)):

"(2) *Associated entertainment defined.* Generally, any expenditure for entertainment, if it is otherwise allowable under chapter 1 of the Code, shall be considered associated with the active conduct of the taxpayer's trade or business if the taxpayer establishes that he had a clear business purpose in making the expenditure, such as to obtain new business or to encourage the continuation of an existing business relationship."

The "associated with" test is limited, nevertheless, by the express qualification, imposed in conference, that the expense must relate to an item "directly preceding or following a substantial and bona fide business discussion (including business meetings at a convention or otherwise)." Again

echoing the views reflected in the conference committee report, *supra*, the regulations provide (26 C.F.R. §1.274-2(d)(3)(ii)):

> "(ii) *Directly preceding or following.* Entertainment which occurs on the same day as a substantial and bona fide business discussion (as defined in subdivision (i) of this subparagraph) will be considered to directly precede or follow such discussion. If the entertainment and the business discussion do not occur on the same day, the facts and circumstances of each case are to be considered, including the place, date and duration of the business discussion, whether the taxpayer or his business associates are from out of town, and, if so, the date of arrival and departure, and the reasons the entertainment did not take place on the day of the business discussion. For example, if a group of business associates comes from out of town to the taxpayer's place of business to hold a substantial business discussion, the entertainment of such business guests and their wives on the evening prior to, or on the evening of the day following, the business discussion would generally be regarded as directly preceding or following such discussion."

Since the "associated with" test is, in effect, an exception and not a general rule, the applicability of the test to specific facts is best determined when it is examined in juxaposition with the "directly related" test as the basic standard. Concerning cocktail or dinner parties and other affairs such as those involved in this case, all of which would normally be regarded as essentially social or entertaining in nature, deduction of the expense is generally permitted only if the stringent requirements of the "directly related" standard are met. The mere purpose of fostering good will is insufficient to show a direct relationship to the business. On the other hand, when such affairs are sponsored in conjunction with meetings or conferences during which substantial and bona fide business matters are discussed, the cost of entertaining the participants as a good will expense item will be deductible as "associated with" the business. Practical application of the test is best typified by the illustrative examples given in the Conference Report and the Regulations, i.e. the familiar situations in which business conferences are conducted by day and out of town participants are entertained by night.

Viewed in this way, the conclusion is inescapable that the Bank's disputed entertainment expenses also fail to satisfy the requirements of the "associated with" test. It is not even suggested by the Bank that the social gatherings were in any sense an adjunct of formal business meetings. Rather, the Bank insists that the "associated with" test should not be narrowly confined to those precise situations in which the entertainment literally "precedes" or "follows" substantial business discussions, and that expenses may still qualify for deduction under that less demanding test even though the business discussions are conducted during the course of a combined social/business function. And, to be sure, there is at least one passage in the Conference Report (quoted *supra*) which lends support to this contention.

On the facts of this case, however, that construction and application would tolerate if not invite a head-on collision between the two tests, and would result in a statutory paradox. If the "associated with" test was intended to apply to cocktail and dinner parties, or dove shoots and barbecues merely because some business is discussed and good will is promoted, to what type of entertainment expense would the more demanding "directly related" test ever be applicable? Further exploration of that question here would require an indulgence in conjecture concerning potential factual situations not yet presented and unnecessary to decide. The future may well yield a case in which the "associated with" standard might be applied in the manner suggested by the Bank. Suffice it to say, however, that to bring the present expenses within the scope of that test would necessitate an unwarranted expansion of its limited area at the expense of the primary "directly related" test and the field it occupies.

The Clerk is directed to enter judgment in favor of the Defendant, dismissing the complaint with costs to be assessed according to law.

DONE and ORDERED at Tampa, Florida, this *27th* day of August, 1973.

W. Terrell Hodges
United States District Judge

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1975

No. 74-1519

ST. PETERSBURG BANK & TRUST COMPANY, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES IN OPPOSITION

The sole question presented by the petition is whether petitioner's deduction of certain entertainment expenses was barred by Section 274 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The district court upheld the disallowance of petitioner's claimed expenses (Pet. App. B-1 to B-8) and the court of appeals affirmed *per curiam* (Pet. App. A-1).

Petitioner was organized in 1955 by Hubert Rutland and others. During 1965 and 1966, the years at issue, Rutland was petitioner's controlling shareholder, president and chairman of the board of directors (Pet. App. B-2).

The entertainment expenses incurred by petitioner were as follows. In 1965, petitioner paid for a wedding reception at the Rutland home, a reception honoring the Florida Commissioner of Education held at the Rutland home, two dove shoots held at the Rutland ranch and, finally, a dove shoot and barbecue at the Rutland ranch. In 1966, petitioner paid for a coronation ball at the St. Petersburg Coliseum, a wedding reception at the Rutland home, and three dove shoots and one dove shoot and barbecue at the Rutland ranch. Attendance at these functions was by invitation only, and the written invitations were issued in the names of Mr. and Mrs. Rutland. There was no indication that petitioner sponsored any of the affairs (Pet. App. B-2 to B-3).

The guests invited to these gatherings included petitioner's customers or potential customers, business leaders, public officials, persons of substantial wealth, and certain of petitioner's officers and key employees. Most of petitioner's employees understood that they were invited only because of their positions and many were instructed to circulate among the other guests, pass out their business cards, generally promote the petitioner's services and nurture a personal rapport with established or potential customers. On several occasions, these employees discussed specific transactions which were then pending or contemplated with these established or potential customers (Pet. App. B-2).

In 1962, Congress enacted Section 274 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (Revenue Act of 1962, 76 Stat. 960, 974), in an effort to end some of the abuses surrounding the deduction of entertainment costs as business expenses. This provision was designed to limit such deductions to instances in which the entertainment was clearly moti-

vated by business reasons, gave rise to no undue personal benefit, and might reasonably be expected to engender business benefit. See, H.R. Rep. No. 1447, 87th Cong., 2d Sess., pp. 19-26 (1962); S. Rep. No. 1881, 87th Cong., 2d Sess., pp. 24-38 (1962).

Section 274(a) provides that entertainment expenses are deductible only if they are either "directly related" to the "active conduct" of the taxpayer's business, or are "associated with" the "active conduct" of the taxpayer's trade or business and directly precede or follow "substantial and bona fide business discussion[s]." Congress intended these tests to be alternative (see S. Rep. No. 1881, *supra*, at 26.

Thus, the "directly related" test requires an expectation of direct business benefit. It was aimed at those activities which embody the simultaneous active conduct of business and entertainment and generally permits the deduction of such expenses. On the other hand, the "associated with" test was designed to deal with the situation where the anticipated business benefit was less direct, as in the case of entertainment designed to foster goodwill, rather than an immediately direct benefit. It was designed to cover the situation when business and entertainment are not pursued simultaneously. However, under such circumstances Section 274(a) explicitly limits the deduction to items of entertainment which either precede or follow a substantial and bona fide business discussion.

The courts below correctly concluded that Section 274 bars petitioner's claimed entertainment expenses. These expenses were incurred in an atmosphere far removed from a business setting and petitioner was never even identified as the sponsor of the various social events.

Thus, petitioner's expenses cannot qualify as "directly related" to its business. Moreover, petitioner's expenses cannot meet the "associated with" test of Section 274 because "substantial and bona fide business discussion[s]" never preceded or followed the social events in question. At most, those of petitioner's employees who were in attendance at these events simply distributed their business cards and generally attempted to promote petitioner's business.

Contrary to petitioner's contention (Pet. 7), the decision below does not bar the deduction of bona fide business entertainment expenses. This case, which petitioner concedes is one of first impression (Pet. 5), simply holds that the particular conditions under which the social events were conducted establishes that they are not deductible under Section 274.

It is respectfully submitted that the petition for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

ROBERT H. BORK,
Solicitor General.

JULY 1975.